

# Huber Family Grove Dedicated

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The Huber home was dedicated on Friday.

Wave photo by Ken Hastings

to become a prominent community member through his efforts to serve; ultimately, he became a legend in the history of Heber Valley. He helped build the first saw mill in Snake Creek Canyon, pioneered rough land, cut oak trees, built ledges, and water canals.

The Huber home and grove is remembered by many as a gathering place for social events in Midway. Dignitaries, church officials, and dozens of grandchildren all enjoyed the hospitality and beauty offered there.

As his great-grandson, David Huber, recalled, "This grove will give people a feeling of what lives might have been like back then and the spirit that motivates people." He tells that the Huber family's written and oral history are important to the history of Heber Valley, specifically, Midway. "It is a window to their souls."

Marie Dagleish, a great-granddaughter and President of the Huber Grove Family Committee, spoke of the significance of the Hubers.

Describing her great-grandfather's musical and poetic talents, she said, "He

would write beautiful words to music." Dr. Robert Sweeten recited one of Huber's poems, "In the Twilight of the Evening", which was sung to his music by the Mountain Valley Singers.

Cortland Nelson, State Director of Parks and Recreation, spoke of the historical aspect of state parks. The Swiss Consul representative, Max Mueller, congratulated the efforts of the Huber family in the restoration, as did a representative of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

A ribbon cutting took place by concerned entities, two of whom were the oldest living grandchild of Johannes and Mary Magdalena, Virginia Leahy, 95, and the oldest living Midway resident, Ina Sulser, 98. Interestingly, Leahy and Sulser both lived within walking distance of each others village in their homeland in Switzerland.

Clayton Huber, also a great grandson, who is said to most closely resemble his grandfather, Johannes Huber, gave the dedicatory prayer.

As Dagleish remarked, the Huber Grove will "begin another 100 years of tradition."

# Huber Family Grove Dedicated

BY IRENE HASTINGS  
Wave Contributing Writer

Lightning bolts tearing through the skies and rain pouring down in torrents could not lessen the impact upon the umbrella-canopied crowd who gathered for the dedication of the Huber Grove at Wasatch Mountain State Park, August 18th.

Over 350 visitors braved the elements as the roadside procession with members of the Huber family commenced. Bearing banners with their progenitor's picture, they proceeded to the apple-tree grove, where the dedication commenced.

David Huber, a great-grandson of Johannes Martin Huber, whose restored home is the centerpiece of the grove, gave a historical account of the family homestead in Midway. He recounted the challenges, hard work, and raw courage, which his grandparents encountered upon settling in Midway, after leaving their native Switzerland.

"He (Johannes Huber) had an insatiable drive for the betterment of his children," said Huber, who is the primary financial donor for the restoration.

The Huber home, built in 1870, newly restored, inside and out, wears a new coat of brown paint yet still boasts the original potrock creamery behind the home.

However, the old and the new are combined with a bridge that crosses the creek leading to picnic tables and benches within the peaceful stillness of the grove. Antique wagons and a handcart relate to its past days. The Huber home is recognized by the National Register of Historical Buildings, and has a rich and colorful history in the early settlement of Midway.

Johannes (John) Huber left his native home in Switzerland at age 23, when there were just two settlements in the valley: Mound City, the Upper Settlement, and Stringtown, the Lower settlement, now part of Charleston. Midway lies about three miles between the two and it was here that he found the beauty he knew in his native Switzerland. He and his wife, Mary Magdalena Munz lived in their partially-finished home while Huber returned to Switzerland on a mission at a time when times were hard and provisions scarce.

After returning home, Huber proceeded



Wave photo by Ken Hastings

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## The Face in the Tree Stump

BY IRENE HASTINGS  
Wave Contributing Writer

When Jim Huber planted the small pine seedling as a teen-ager, he could never have known that one day this same tree would bear the Huber image on its large, weathered stump.

Yet, coinciding with the dedication of the Johannes Martin Huber home, August 18th, at Wasatch Mountain State Park, is the wood carving created by John Petit, artist at John M. Huber's and Elizabeth Gertsch Huber's homestead.

The pine tree thrived and grew, providing shade and shelter for the four boys and seven girls of the Huber family.

Robert (Skip) Hildewell, a family member, said "It had grown so big that it overwhelmed the house so we cut the tree down and saved the stump."

Also, the potrock foundation was not as stable as it could be and there were worries that it could fall upon the house. In order to preserve the tree's history they spoke to George Olsen, architect, who referred them to Petit.

"It started as a Swiss figure," stated

Hildewell.

However, it was decided to make the carving into the actual face of John Huber.

Vera Carlson, daughter of John Huber, recalls their active family growing up in the Midway home.

"Jim planted it as an Ag class project in high school," she said, and was delighted that the old pine tree and its history is preserved.

The face in the stump now takes its accorded place in the colorful Swiss history of Midway.